(c) whether the accredited institutions are voluntary organisations or Govern ment institutions; and

(d) what requirements are to be ful filled by the Institution to get accredition for academic and technical courses in case they are voluntary institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIND1A): (a) 3 to (d) The number of students enrolled by the National Open Sohool during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 for its secondary and senior secondary course was:

Year	*Secondary*	*Senior Secondary*
1992—93	31375	20932
1993—94	35098	25777
1994—95	36766	29054

There are two Accredited Institutions for Academic Courses and one Accredited Vocational Institution functioning in Karnataka as below:

Accredited Institutions for Academic courses in Karnataka

(i) Iyer High School, HMT Road, Mathikere, Bangalore.

(ii) Don Bosco Academy. Sutgatti, Post: Navanagar, Hubli.

Accredited Institution for Vbcational Courses in Karnataka

(i) Shrainik Vidyapeeth, No. 1067/1, Vanivilasa Road, Mysore.

The Accredited Institutions can be either Government Institutions or voluntary organisations.

Retirement fixed by National Open School for Selecting Accredited Institutions for Academic Courses includes recognition of the institution, minimum levels of enrolments in classes VI *to* XII, employment of post-graduate/trained graduate teachers and provision of infras-tructural facilities like all weather classrooms, laboratories and library etc.

In case of the vocational stream, the addequacy of the experience of instructors and infrastructural facilities avail-able with the institution for conducting the concerned vocational course etc. are kept in viev while granting accredia-tion.

Stepping up of Public investment

457. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR, SINGLA: Will the Minister of AGRI-CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public investment to accelerate development of supportive infrastructure for agriculture will be stepped up;

(b) if so, in what manner and the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the new initiative being taken in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM TAKHAR): (a) to (c) During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), significant level of investment has been proposed in favour of areas in Agriculture and Allied Activities like horticulture, fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation, post-harvest management, etc. In order to encourage investment in infrastructure for agriculture, it is proposed to establish a new Rural Infrastructural Development Fund within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). This fund will provide loans to State Governments and State owned Corporations for completing the on-going projects relating to medium and minor irrigation, soil conservation, watershed manaeement and other forms of rural infrastructure.